

**ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2006**

Council Members Present: Karen James, Matt Knorr, Michael Kuick, Tom Marciniak, Blanche McQuitty, Clifford Shelton, Fr. Bill Stanfield, Fr. Steve Stradinger, Sharon Tehan, Phill Unti.

Guest: Alice Hatzenbeller

Council Members Excused: Markene Kaminski, Micki Klappa-Sullivan, John Lee.

Meeting Minutes: The June council meeting minutes were approved.

Formation: The council reviewed and discussed the following Chapters in the Parish Council Manual: Chapter 6 “Starting Points”, Chapter 7 “The Mission of the Church” and Chapter 13 “Effective Councils”. The following recommendations were made:

- The council’s constitution and bylaws are due to be reviewed this year. A sign-up sheet was distributed to form an ad hoc committee to review the constitution and bylaws and make recommendations for any changes that may be necessary. Karen James volunteered to coordinate this ad hoc committee.
- A recommendation was also made to review the mission statement of the parish. A sign-up sheet was distributed to form an ad hoc committee to review the parish mission statement and make recommendations for changes if necessary.
- Fr. Steve recommended having an ad hoc committee consisting of parish council members from St. Matthew and St. Mary’s by the Lake to review the structure of the council meetings in light of the new collaboration between the two parish councils.
- Fr. Bill made a recommendation to pause for prayer during council meetings prior to making decisions.

Chairperson’s Report: St. Matt’s Fest will be held on September 23, 2006. Parish council members are expected to greet before and after Mass that day. Council members were also asked to assist with food preparation that day. All council members were asked to email Matt with their availability to volunteer on September 23rd and he will send a list of council volunteers to Tom Schneider.

Pastor’s Report: Fr. Steve encouraged all council members to participate in greeting people before and after Mass on Parish Council weekends and also to participate in the Generations of Faith festivals throughout the year. These are wonderful opportunities for council members to share their faith with the parish community.

Fr. Bill thanked everyone for the prayers and support he received when his father passed away in June.

Fr. Bill announced that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in October. It is the council’s responsibility to organize the agenda for this meeting, as well as provide the hospitality following the meeting. Matt Knorr will contact John Lee to finalize the agenda to include the following:

- Review of the accomplishments over the past year.
- Updates on current initiatives.
- Updates from all committees.
- Goals for the future.

Liaison Reports:

Prayer and Worship - The committee met on August 3, 2006. The committee discerned Carol Sagan Chairperson and Mary Ann Rukis as Secretary. Plans were finalized for the committee’s portion of the scavenger hunt during the Ministry Fair on September 16th and 17th. The committee discussed the recent church reconfiguration, which went smoothly. The only issue is with regard to the congestion that occurs during communion time. The committee will discuss other possible options to be used to decrease this congestion at the next meeting. The committee is assessing goals for 2006-07.

Building Committee – The committee is in the midst of reviewing the results of the Phase II Building Campaign and will be developing a process to address various issues related to the worship/gym space prior to drafting a formal proposal.

Finance Committee – The June 2006 financial statements and year-end report were reviewed in detail. Overall the 2005-06 year was successful. Resources were managed very well, resulting in a surplus of \$8,962. In budgeted programs, our income was 101% of budget and our expenses were 99% of budgeted expenses. Our financial stewardship was 98% of budget.

10/04/06 12:03 PM

Actionable: Fr. Steve distributed the information for the 2006 Leadership Convocation to be held on October 21, 2006. All council members are expected to attend this half-day session. Council members were asked to contact Blanche McQuitty via email by September 1st. Blanche will submit a complete list of council attendees to Fr. Steve after Mass on September 3rd and the Parish Office will register council members.

Discussion: Generations of Faith - Alice Hatzenbeller reviewed the information about the Generations of Faith program featured in the August St. Matt's Buzz. She explained the church events the fests will focus on this year are All Saints Day, Epiphany, Good Friday and Corpus Christi. Five Faith Fests for each of these events will be held throughout the year. Three will be held at St. Matthew Parish (Sundays, Mondays, Fridays) and two will be held at St. Mary's by the Lake Parish (Wednesdays) according to the published schedule. She encouraged all council members to become involved.

Parish Council Retreat - Alice Hatzenbeller announced that the council retreat will be held on September 16th. This will be a combined retreat with the parish council from St. Mary's by the Lake. Alice will be the facilitator for the day and the focus of the retreat will be on the spirituality of the council - "Sing a New Church Into Being: Parish Council".

Open to All: Alice Hatzenbeller announced that St. Matthew Parish will be honoring priests with 50 years of service in the priesthood at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on September 24th. She indicated that this would have been Fr. Joe Sukup's 50th year of service as well. She asked all council members to attend this special Mass if they are able.

Alice Hatzenbeller announced there will be a Voices for Justice discussion on the death penalty held on October 4th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Matt's. A professor from Alverno College and an attorney will be explaining issues surrounding the death penalty. Everyone is invited to attend.

Fr. Steve invited all council members to attend the St. Mary's by the Lake Parish Picnic to be held on Sunday, September 10th from 12-4 p.m. A silent auction will be held with all proceeds going to Our Lady of the Gulf Parish, in Mississippi, to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Karen James brought forth an issue regarding a wheelchair bound person she encountered last weekend when she was greeting before Mass. The woman stated that she had trouble entering the church in the past because she couldn't open the door and was thankful that Karen was there this weekend to let her in. After discussion, a suggestion was made to have the council liaisons to the Prayer and Worship Committee communicate a recommendation from the council that one door to the gathering space remain open prior to Mass each weekend unless there is inclement weather. In addition, a recommendation was made to have information published in the bulletin to raise awareness about the button on the exterior door to the gathering space that allows for handicapped access.

The acoustic issue in the old sacristy area has been improved. Parishioners should notice the improvement this weekend.

Fr. Bill announced that Judy Wargin's father passed away. His funeral will be held on Monday, September 4th from 4-7 p.m. at St. Rose Parish in Milwaukee.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Blanche McQuitty
Parish Council Secretary